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MAINE DEPARTMENT OF
LABOR
20 Union Street Augusta, Maine 04330

BUREAU OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY
Division of Economic Analysis and Research

LABOR MARKET DIGEST

MARCH 1986

A Labor Market Information Newsletter on Maine Economic Activity

THE U.S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX--FEBRUARY 1986

ACCORDING TO THE BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR ALL URBAN CONSUMERS (CPI-U) DECLINED 0.3 PERCENT BEFORE SEASONAL ADJUSTMENT IN FEBRUARY TO A LEVEL OF 327.5 (1967=100). FOR THE 12-MONTH PERIOD ENDED IN FEBRUARY, THE CPI-U INCREASED 3.2 PERCENT.

ON A SEASONALLY ADJUSTED BASIS, THE CPI-U DECLINED 0.4 PERCENT IN FEBRUARY, AFTER REGISTERING A 0.3 PERCENT INCREASE IN JANUARY. THE FEBRUARY DECLINE REPRESENTS THE FIRST DECREASE SINCE DECEMBER 1982 AND THE LARGEST DROP SINCE A 0.4 PERCENT DECLINE IN NOVEMBER 1955. DECLINES IN ENERGY AND FOOD PRICES WERE PRINCIPALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DOWNTURN IN THE FEBRUARY CPI. PRICES FOR ENERGY COMMODITIES--FUEL OIL, COAL, BOTTLED GAS, AND MOTOR FUELS--DROPPED 6.8 PERCENT IN FEBRUARY, PRIMARILY REFLECTING THE RECENT DROP IN CRUDE OIL PRICES.

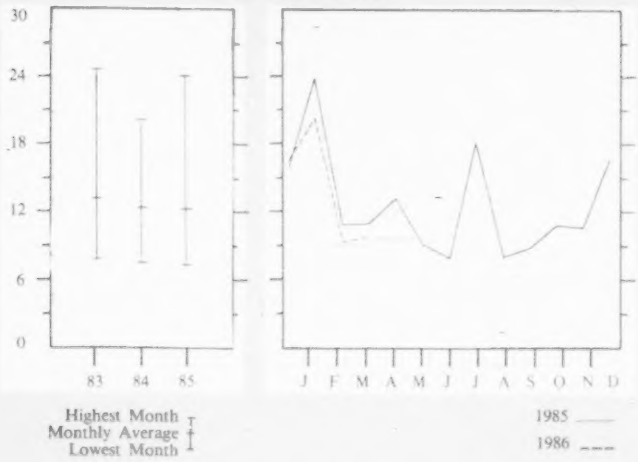
THE TRANSPORTATION COMPONENT, REFLECTING A SHARP DROP IN PRICES FOR MOTOR FUELS, DECLINED 1.4 PERCENT IN FEBRUARY, AFTER ADVANCING 0.5 PERCENT IN JANUARY. GASOLINE PRICES DECLINED 5.9 PERCENT IN FEBRUARY, RECEDING TO THEIR LEVEL JUST PRIOR TO THE APRIL 1, 1985, INCREASE IN THE FEDERAL EXCISE TAX AND ARE NOW 16.6 PERCENT BELOW THEIR PEAK-LEVEL OF MARCH 1981. USED CAR PRICES--DOWN 0.4 PERCENT--ALSO CONTRIBUTED TO THE FEBRUARY DECLINE IN THE TRANSPORTATION COMPONENT.

THE FOOD AND BEVERAGE COMPONENT REGISTERED A DECLINE OF 0.6 PERCENT IN FEBRUARY, FOLLOWING AN INCREASE OF 0.3 PERCENT IN JANUARY. GROCERY STORE FOOD PRICES DECREASED 1.0 PERCENT, REFLECTING A SHARP TURNAROUND IN FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PRICES AND THE SECOND DROP IN A ROW FOR THE INDEX FOR MEATS, POULTRY, FISH, AND EGGS.

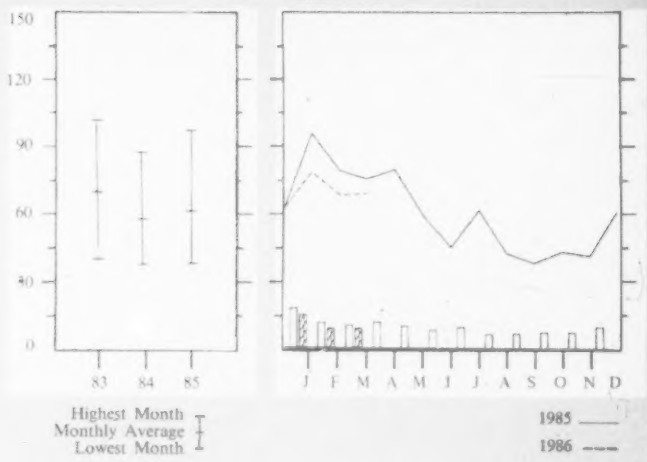
THE HOUSING COMPONENT DECLINED 0.1 PERCENT IN FEBRUARY, FOLLOWING AN INCREASE OF 0.3 PERCENT IN JANUARY. A RECORD DROP IN FUEL OIL PRICES AND A SMALL DECREASE IN THE INDEX FOR HOUSEHOLD FURNISHINGS AND OPERATIONS WERE ONLY PARTIALLY OFFSET BY SMALL-TO-MODERATE INCREASES IN MOST OTHER HOUSING COMPONENTS.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

UI Initial Claims
in Thousands



UI Intrastate Weeks Claimed
in Thousands



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THE INDEX FOR APPAREL AND UPKEEP--DOWN 0.5 PERCENT IN FEBRUARY--DECLINED FOR THE SECOND CONSECUTIVE MONTH. CLOTHING PRICES, REFLECTING THE CONTINUATION OF LARGER THAN USUAL SEASONAL PRICE REDUCTIONS, DECLINED 0.6 PERCENT. CHARGES FOR APPAREL SERVICES WERE UNCHANGED.

PERCENT CHANGES IN THE U.S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR ALL URBAN CONSUMERS (CPI-U)

EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	SEASONALLY ADJUSTED								UNADJUSTED
	CHANGES FROM PRECEDING MONTH							COMPOUND ANNUAL RATE	
	1985					1986		3-MONTHS ENDED	12-MONTHS ENDED
	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.	JAN.	FEB.	FEBRUARY 1986	FEBRUARY 1986
ALL ITEMS	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.3	-0.4	1.2	3.2
FOOD AND BEVERAGES	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.3	-0.6	1.2	2.1
HOUSING	0.4	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.3	-0.1	1.8	3.8
APPAREL AND UPKEEP	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.0	-0.3	-0.5	-3.4	1.1
TRANSPORTATION	-0.2	-0.2	0.4	0.7	0.4	0.5	-1.4	-2.1	1.6
MEDICAL CARE	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.4	0.7	7.4	7.2
ENTERTAINMENT	-0.1	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.0	0.9	0.2	4.7	4.1
OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES	0.5	-0.2	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.9	0.6	8.4	6.2

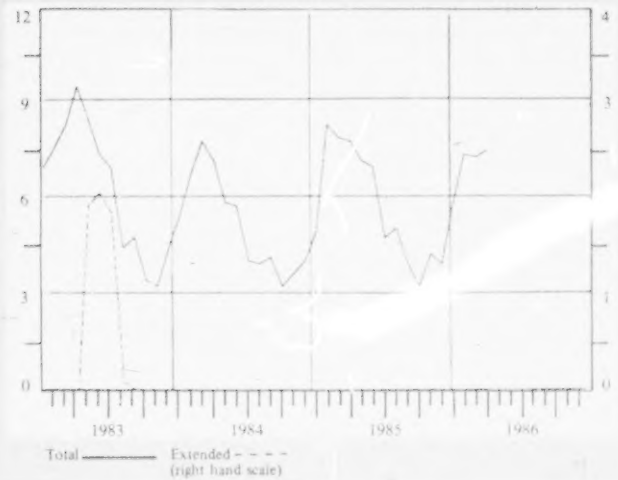
SOURCE: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, NEWS RELEASE, WASHINGTON, D.C., MARCH 25, 1986.

Selected Employment Security Activities

UI Benefit Payments

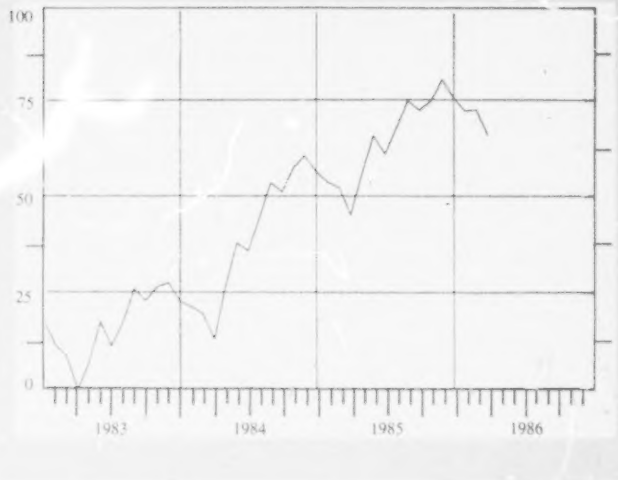
in Million Dollars

(Total Includes Maine's Portion of Extended Benefits)



Unemployment Compensation Fund Balance in Millions

(End of Month)



Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment by Place of Work

in Thousands

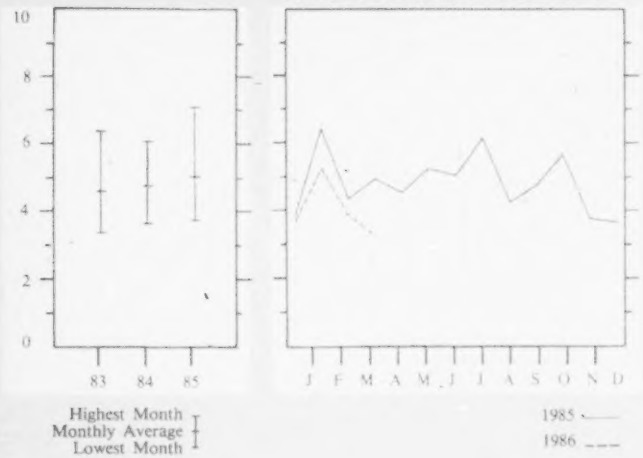
ITEM	STATEWIDE This Month	STATEWIDE Last Month	STATEWIDE Year Ago	PORTLAND MSA This Month	PORTLAND MSA Last Month	PORTLAND MSA Year Ago	LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA This Month	LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA Last Month	LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA Year Ago
Total Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment 1/	456.3	455.9	440.1	108.5	108.0	104.0	37.0	36.9	36.2
Total Manufacturing	104.8	105.9	106.2	16.8	16.8	16.5	10.3	10.4	10.3
Durable Goods	44.7	45.6	44.9	8.4	8.4	8.3	2.6	2.6	2.6
Lumber and Wood Products 2/	13.4	14.7	13.2	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.2	0.2	0.1
Primary and Fabricated Metals	3.8	3.9	4.0	.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8
Machinery, except Electrical	4.1	4.1	4.5	2.1	2.1	2.1	0.3	0.3	0.3
Electrical and Electronic Equipment	10.1	9.8	9.7	3.3	3.3	3.5	0.8	0.8	0.9
Transportation Equipment	9.5	9.4	10.1	(d)	(d)	(d)	*	*	0.1
Other Durable Goods 3/	3.8	3.7	3.4	1.5	1.5	1.2	0.4	0.4	0.4
Nondurable Goods	60.1	60.3	61.3	8.4	8.4	8.2	7.7	7.8	7.7
Food and Kindred Products	8.4	8.5	8.1	1.9	1.9	1.9	0.8	0.8	0.8
Textile Mill Products	7.0	7.0	7.0	n/a	n/a	n/a	1.3	1.3	1.3
Apparel	4.2	4.3	4.1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Paper and Allied Products	16.9	17.0	17.9	(d)	(d)	(d)	0.5	0.5	0.5
Printing and Publishing	5.2	5.2	4.9	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.6	0.6	0.6
Rubber and Misc. Plastic Products	3.9	4.0	3.7	n/a	n/a	n/a	1.8	1.9	1.8
Leather and Leather Products	13.5	13.3	14.5	1.6	1.6	1.4	2.6	2.6	2.6
Footwear (except Rubber)	11.1	10.9	11.8	n/a	n/a	n/a	2.0	2.0	2.0
Other Leather Products	2.4	2.4	2.7	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.6	0.6	0.6
Other Nondurable Goods 4/	1.0	1.0	1.1	4.9	4.9	4.9	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total Nonmanufacturing	351.5	350.0	333.9	91.7	91.2	87.5	26.7	26.5	25.9
Mining	0.1	0.1	0.1	*	*	*	*	*	0.0
Contract Construction	20.4	20.4	17.7	5.4	5.3	4.8	1.5	1.5	1.4
Transportation and Public Utilities	18.6	19.1	18.8	5.7	5.8	5.6	1.4	1.4	1.4
Wholesale Trade	22.7	22.5	21.2	8.7	8.7	8.5	1.9	1.8	1.9
Retail Trade	84.9	83.6	78.2	22.1	22.0	21.3	6.8	6.7	6.5
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	21.8	21.8	20.1	10.1	10.0	9.1	1.9	1.9	1.8
Services	93.3	92.7	90.2	25.0	24.7	23.6	9.3	9.4	9.3
Government	89.7	89.8	87.6	14.7	14.7	14.6	3.9	3.8	3.6
Federal	18.6	18.8	18.3	1.7	1.7	1.7	0.3	0.3	0.3
State and Local 5/	71.1	71.0	69.3	13.0	13.0	12.9	3.6	3.5	3.3
Involved in Labor-Management Disputes	0.8	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

1/ Employment figures relate to full - and part-time wage and salary workers in pay periods including the 12th of the month. Domestic workers in private households, proprietors, self-employed, and unpaid family workers are excluded. 2/ Lumber and wood products, and furniture and fixtures are combined in the Portland series. 3/ Includes Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) codes: Statewide - 25, 32, 38, 39; Portland - 32, 38, 39; Lewiston - 25, 32, 39. 4/ Includes SIC codes: Statewide - 28, 29; Portland - 22, 23, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30; Lewiston - 23, 28, 29. 5/ Regular teachers are included in summer months whether or not specifically paid in those months. n/a - data not available in sufficient detail for publication. *Less than 50. (d) Nondisclosure item.

THESE DATA ARE DEVELOPED BY THE MAINE BUREAU OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY IN COOPERATION WITH THE U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS.

New Applications For Work

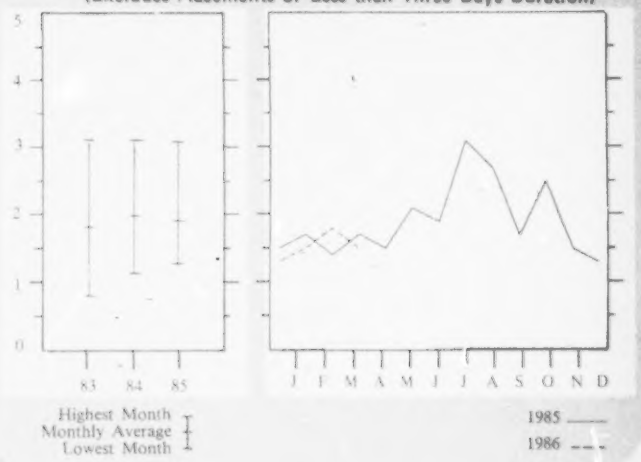
in Thousands



Nonfarm Placements

in Thousands

(Excludes Placements of Less than Three Days Duration)



Earnings and Workweek of Production Workers in Manufacturing Industries

AREA AND INDUSTRY	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS			AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS			ANNUAL AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS		
	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	1985	1984	1983
STATEWIDE												
Manufacturing	$344.06	$346.18	$333.48	40.1	40.3	39.2	$8.58	$8.59	$8.40	$8.40	$8.05	$7.61
Durable Goods	348.90	353.38	341.65	40.7	40.9	40.1	8.57	8.64	8.52	8.46	8.22	8.04
Lumber and Wood Products	296.72	319.98	309.62	39.3	39.7	39.9	7.55	8.06	7.76	8.06	7.57	7.37
Primary and Fabricated Metals	349.03	358.52	328.05	41.9	43.3	40.6	8.33	8.28	8.08	8.25	7.89	7.75
Machinery, except Electrical	384.24	382.47	375.96	39.9	41.6	42.1	9.63	9.15	8.93	9.11	9.36	8.08
Electrical and Electronic Equipment	304.18	300.30	285.67	39.3	39.0	38.5	7.74	7.70	7.42	7.57	7.56	7.27
Other Durable Goods	476.60	429.57	409.25	43.4	43.0	40.6	10.06	9.99	10.08	9.50	9.51	9.31
Nondurable Goods	341.02	341.15	327.41	39.7	39.9	39.4	8.59	8.55	8.31	8.31	7.95	7.37
Food and Kindred Products	222.40	227.22	219.10	32.0	32.6	32.8	6.95	6.97	6.68	6.63	6.46	6.10
Textile Mill Products	292.77	279.07	280.69	41.1	41.1	42.4	6.88	6.79	6.62	6.64	6.13	5.87
Apparel	206.48	207.72	199.08	35.6	36.7	33.8	5.80	5.66	5.89	5.83	5.55	5.39
Paper and Allied Products	586.81	582.07	536.69	47.4	47.4	46.1	12.38	12.28	11.90	12.25	11.62	10.95
Leather and Leather Products	217.54	217.31	216.71	36.5	36.4	36.3	5.96	5.97	5.97	5.93	5.80	5.59
Other Nondurable Goods	307.64	312.03	294.45	38.6	39.2	38.0	7.97	7.96	7.55	7.51	7.11	6.60
PORTLAND MSA												
Manufacturing	353.28	356.69	342.42	38.4	39.5	39.0	9.20	9.03	8.78	8.90	8.08	7.67
LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA												
Manufacturing	n/a	n/a	255.98	n/a	n/a	37.7	n/a	n/a	6.79	6.78	6.50	6.16

n/a Series discontinued

Female Labor Force in Maine

in Thousands

ITEM	This Month 1/	Last Month 1/	Year Ago 2/
Labor Force	236.7	233.7	230.6
Unemployed	13.9	14.7	14.3
(Percent)	5.9%	6.3%	6.2%
Resident Employed	222.8	219.0	216.3

U.S. Consumer Price Index

BASE PERIOD	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	Last Dec
(1967=100) All Items	326.0	327.5	317.4	327.4

Percent Change for Past Month	- 0.5%
Percent Change from Last December	- 0.4%
Percent Change from 12 Months Ago	+ 2.7%

1/ Preliminary estimates 2/ Revised

Labor Force, Employment and Unemployment

in Thousands

AREA 1/	LABOR FORCE 2/			RESIDENT EMPLOYED			UNEMPLOYMENT Number			UNEMPLOYMENT Percent of Labor Force		
	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago
MAINE-Statewide	543.4	538.1	531.4	507.7	502.4	496.4	35.7	35.7	35.0	6.6	6.6	6.6
MAJOR LABOR MARKETS												
Bangor MSA	39,900	39,600	40,100	37,400	37,100	37,700	2,500	2,500	2,400	6.3	6.3	6.0
Lewiston-Auburn MSA	40,600	40,100	39,800	37,300	36,800	36,500	3,300	3,300	3,300	8.1	8.2	8.3
Portland MSA	110,700	109,200	107,000	106,900	105,500	103,200	3,800	3,700	3,800	3.4	3.4	3.6
Portsmouth-Dover-Rochester MSA 3/	120,570	118,750	114,570	116,620	114,680	109,170	3,950	4,070	5,400	3.3	3.4	4.7
OTHER LABOR MARKETS												
Augusta	30,350	29,940	30,390	28,440	27,970	28,330	1,910	1,970	2,060	6.3	6.6	6.8
Bath-Brunswick	25,260	25,030	24,590	24,130	23,860	23,440	1,130	1,170	1,150	4.5	4.7	4.7
Belfast	10,310	10,230	10,480	9,080	8,960	9,010	1,230	1,270	1,470	11.9	12.4	14.0
Biddeford	24,300	23,950	23,350	22,770	22,430	22,050	1,530	1,520	1,300	6.3	6.3	5.6
Boothbay Harbor-Wiscasset	10,790	10,610	10,900	10,090	9,880	10,270	700	730	630	6.5	6.9	5.8
Calais-Eastport	12,690	12,690	12,230	11,140	11,120	10,880	1,550	1,570	1,350	12.2	12.4	11.0
Caribou-Presque Isle	21,490	21,060	20,930	19,430	19,090	18,860	2,060	1,970	2,070	9.6	9.4	9.9
Central Penobscot	2,770	2,770	2,500	2,530	2,530	2,240	240	240	260	8.7	8.7	10.4
Dover-Foxcroft	6,120	6,180	6,340	5,700	5,740	5,930	420	440	410	6.9	7.1	6.5
Ellsworth	20,470	20,150	19,640	18,510	18,160	17,920	1,960	1,990	1,720	9.6	9.9	8.8
Farmington	12,070	12,190	11,820	11,080	11,220	10,730	990	970	1,090	8.2	8.0	9.2
Fort Kent-Allagash	4,820	4,910	5,100	4,190	4,390	4,470	630	520	630	13.1	10.6	12.4
Greenville	1,060	1,140	1,100	930	1,030	960	130	110	140	12.3	9.6	12.7
Houlton	5,770	5,780	5,710	5,300	5,330	5,270	470	450	440	8.1	7.8	7.7
Kittery-York 3/	27,200	26,820	25,650	26,640	26,140	25,220	560	680	430	2.1	2.5	1.7
Lincoln-Howland	5,380	5,390	5,250	4,960	4,970	4,850	420	420	400	7.8	7.8	7.6
Livermore Falls	4,410	4,370	4,520	4,040	3,990	4,100	370	380	420	8.4	8.7	9.3
Madawaska-Van Buren	3,810	3,760	3,700	3,350	3,310	3,280	460	450	420	12.1	12.0	11.4
Millinocket-East Millinocket	4,480	4,470	4,390	4,140	4,120	4,150	340	350	240	7.6	7.8	5.5
Norway-Paris	11,070	11,000	10,720	10,090	10,030	9,900	980	970	820	8.9	8.8	7.6
Patten-Island Falls	2,460	2,490	2,180	2,290	2,320	2,020	170	170	160	6.9	6.8	7.3
Rockland	16,840	17,060	16,750	15,680	15,900	15,530	1,150	1,160	1,220	6.8	6.8	7.3
Rumford	8,240	8,230	8,450	7,510	7,520	7,600	730	710	860	8.9	8.6	10.2
Sanford	15,360	15,230	14,970	14,250	14,050	13,920	1,110	1,180	1,050	7.2	7.7	7.0
Sebago Lakes Region	11,300	11,160	9,720	10,780	10,640	9,210	520	520	510	4.6	4.7	5.2
Skowhegan	21,460	21,040	21,030	19,450	19,010	19,090	2,010	2,030	1,940	9.4	9.6	9.2
Southwest Penobscot	10,200	10,120	10,210	9,210	9,120	9,250	990	1,000	960	9.7	9.9	9.4
Waterville	21,680	21,610	21,980	20,350	20,240	20,550	1,330	1,370	1,430	6.1	6.3	6.5
OTHER NEW ENGLAND STATES												
Connecticut	n/a	1,693.9	1,686.8	n/a	1,620.3	1,600.7	n/a	73.6	86.1	n/a	4.3	5.1
Massachusetts	3,049.0	3,027.0	3,028.6	2,918.0	2,898.0	2,886.6	131.0	129.0	142.1	4.3	4.3	4.7
New Hampshire	548.1	541.4	516.1	527.5	520.7	494.6	20.7	20.7	21.5	3.8	3.8	4.2
Rhode Island	500.4	496.9	494.8	476.8	470.7	466.7	23.6	26.2	28.1	4.7	5.3	5.7
Vermont	285.3	287.3	272.3	270.6	272.7	256.8	14.7	14.5	15.5	5.2	5.1	5.7
NEW ENGLAND STATES	n/a	6,046.5	5,998.7	n/a	5,782.4	5,705.4	n/a	264.1	293.3	n/a	4.4	4.9
UNITED STATES 4/	116,309	115,725	114,394	107,643	106,685	105,768	8,667	9,041	8,625	7.5	7.8	7.5

MSA-Metropolitan Statistical Area

Note

n/a indicates that the information was not available at the time of printing.
Employment and unemployment may not add to labor force due to rounding.

Footnotes

1/ Labor force, employment, and unemployment data for all areas not seasonally adjusted. Estimates made independently for each labor market area have been benchmarked to and extrapolated from the Current Population Survey estimates for the state. All data adjusted to place of residence basis. Excludes members of the Armed Forces.

2/ Current and last month figures preliminary; year ago figures revised.

3/ Kittery-York is the eight-town Maine portion of the Portsmouth-Dover-Rochester MSA which includes towns in both Maine and New Hampshire.

4/ National estimates based on a sample of household visits; state estimates based on enlargements of employment figures reported.

THESE DATA ARE DEVELOPED BY THE MAINE BUREAU OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY IN COOPERATION WITH THE U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS.

Mid-Month Insured Unemployment (Less Partials)

ITEM	STATEWIDE			PORTLAND MSA			LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA		
	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago
Number of Continued-Week Claimants	14,150	15,090	16,499	1,500	1,380	1,642	1,357	1,553	1,608
Insured Unemployment Rate *	3.2	3.4	3.9	1.5	4.0	1.8	3.9	1.6	4.7

* Should not be confused with insured unemployment rates as defined in the Employment Security Law.

Selected Characteristics Of Unemployment Insurance Claimants

REGULAR PROGRAM

PERCENT DISTRIBUTION BY OCCUPATION

CATEGORY	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago
Professional, Technical, and Managerial	4.2	4.2	7.0
Clerical and Sales	8.3	10.0	14.3
Service	6.2	7.0	10.2
Agricultural, Fishery, Forestry, and Related	8.3	2.8	3.0
Processing	4.2	5.6	3.8
Machine Trades	18.8	15.5	12.4
Benchwork	12.5	14.1	11.2
Structural Work	18.8	23.9	21.6
Miscellaneous	18.7	16.9	16.5

PERCENT DISTRIBUTION BY AGE

CATEGORY	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago
Total under 40	60.8	61.0	57.0
Under 22	6.1	6.2	6.3
22-24	10.5	10.7	10.6
25-34	32.5	32.3	29.8
35-39	11.7	11.8	10.3
Total 40 and Over	39.2	39.0	43.0
40-44	8.7	8.6	7.7
45-54	13.5	13.1	11.8
55-64	10.6	10.7	9.8
65 and Over	6.4	6.6	13.7

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